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siderable delay in the sailing of the *Rhein* we were enabled to observe the results of our vaccination a week previous. I estimated the number of successful inoculations, as noted at the final inspection, to have been about 75 per cent. The result speaks well for the character of the virus.

The last weekly health report for the city of Bremen gives the number of deaths from all causes as 74. From this we estimate that the annual death rates per thousand is 2.65, a considerable increase over the normal for this city. It must be largely due to the influenza prevailing in this vicinity. The causes of death were, diphtheria, 1; acute intestinal diseases, 2; tubercle of lung, 11; pneumonia, 20, and all other diseases, 40.

Influenza is not reported separately, but is doubtless largely responsible for the deaths assigned as "All other diseases," as well as the cases of deaths from pneumonia. The weather for the past few days has been much milder, with more sunshine, so I expect an early subsidence of the epidemic of influenza.

* The consul at Königsberg reports another week without an additional case of smallpox.

Respectfully,

JOSEPH B. GREENE,

Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

Reports from Hamburg.

HAMBURG, *February 26, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to report for the week ended February 24, 1900: The steamship *Pretoria*, of the Hamburg-American Line, sailed on Sunday the 18th, carrying 1,001 steerage passengers. For these passengers 496 pieces of baggage were inspected and 263 were disinfected. The steamship *Palatia* was inspected with reference to steerage accommodations on Saturday, the 23d, preparatory to her sailing the next day. Bills of health were issued to 10 vessels during the week, of which 7 carried cargo. The last official health report indicates a decrease in the prevalence of influenza in this city.

Respectfully,

A. C. SMITH,

Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

HAMBURG, GERMANY, *March 5, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to report for the week ended March 3, 1900:

The steamship *Palatia*, of the Hamburg-American Line, sailed on Sunday, January 25, carrying 1,328 steerage passengers. For these passengers 650 pieces of baggage were inspected, and 302 were disinfected. * * * The steamship *Pisa*, of the Union Line, sailed February 28, carrying 373 steerage passengers for the Hamburg-American Line. For these passengers 220 pieces of baggage were inspected and 86 were disinfected. The steerage compartments of the *Pisa* were inspected before embarkation of the passengers. The steerage compartments of the steamship *Patricia* were inspected March 3, preparatory to her sailing the next day. Bills of health were issued during the week to 9 vessels, 7 of which carried cargo.

There is a continued decrease in the number of reported cases of influenza, but the death rate has evidently been somewhat affected by

it. For the week ended February 24 it corresponded to an annual rate of 26.25 a thousand, the greatest increase being in the diseases of the respiratory organs.

In accordance with authority granted, I visited Bremen February 26 to see the methods used there in carrying out the provisions of our quarantine regulations, and found the inspection at Bremen to be more complete than at Hamburg.

Respectfully,

A. C. SMITH,

Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

Methods of disinfection used in Hamburg.

HAMBURG, GERMANY, March 8, 1900.

SIR: As directed in Bureau letter (F. L. G., R. M. W.) of the 5th ultimo, I have the honor to report upon the theories and methods of disinfection as practiced at Hamburg in public sanitation.

In a former letter I mentioned the fact that somewhat different theories prevailed here from those on which the practice at United States quarantine stations is based. These differences may be briefly stated as two—the rejection of gases altogether as disinfectants and the use of a simpler method and less elaborate apparatus in steam disinfection.

The disinfection establishment, which is the headquarters of this work and is under the police authority, is situated in an outlying part of the city, and consists of a roomy brick building and smaller out-buildings in a walled inclosure. Here are the steam disinfecting apparatus and supplies of materials and apparatus for house disinfection, and from here are sent wagons and men to do house disinfecting. One of the many canals or offsets of the Elbe also reaches the establishment; and when disinfection is required on board any vessel lying in the harbor, men are sent from here to do the work and boats or barges are used for bringing away articles requiring steam disinfection.

The steam chambers are 5 in number, and are set in a brick wall, one end opening in a large room on the unclean side and the other in a similar room on the clean side. There is no communicating door between the 2 sides, and workmen never pass from one to the other and only speak through a telephone. Each chamber has a capacity of 5 cubic meters, and is an oval cyclinder, 2.5 meters long by 2.5 high and 1.8 broad, opening at each end. The cylinder has no jacket nor coil, but a large radiator, or heater, lies the full length of the bottom. The pipes for admitting steam lie just over this radiator, in the bottom, and also extend along the top. A ventilating pipe enters at the very bottom, from the clean side, so that when air is admitted for ventilation it passes around the hot radiator. The escape pipes for air and steam are in the top. The walls of the chamber are of steel, 5 millimeters thick, and are covered on the outside with a heat-insulating material. The thermometer and pressure gauge are at the unclean end and the apparatus is controlled from that end. There is no apparatus for producing a vacuum and the walls of the chamber would not be stiff enough to support it.

The rack for holding articles for disinfection is in 4 tiers and the frame fills the chamber above the heater, running on a track which lies immediately over the heater and is continued at each end by movable pieces on the outside. The articles to be disinfected are not hung up,